Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	§	
	§	
Applications for Consent to the	§	
Transfer of Control of Licenses and	§	
Section 214 Authorizations from	§	**CC Docket No. 98-141**
	§	
AMERITECH CORPORATION,	§	
Transferor	§	
	§	
To	§	
	§	
SBC COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,	§	
Transferee	§	

COMMENTS OF
TEXAS RURAL MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES

July 19, 1999

LAW OFFICES OF JIM BOYLE
1005 Congress Avenue, Suite 550
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-1492
(512) 474-2507 FAX

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COMMENTS OF TEXAS RURAL MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

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II. Introduction and Executive Summary

These comments are filed on behalf of five rural municipal electric systems located in the Texas municipalities of Bowie, Fredericksburg, Greenville, Tulia and Weatherford, hereinafter referred to as "Texas Rural Municipal Electric Utilities." Southwestern Bell Telephone company (SWBT) is the incumbent LEC for Bowie, Greenville and Weatherford. GTE is the incumbent LEC for Fredericksburg and Tulia. The merger conditions (Conditions) filed on June 29, 1999 fail to address the total absence of facilities-based competition in rural areas. Three issues are illustrative of the lack of commitment to local services competition in rural areas.

Out-of-Region Markets

SBC has committed to providing local services in thirty (30) out-of-region **metropolitan** markets, yet is unwilling to commit to provide competition in a single wire center located outside a metropolitan area! Texas municipalities have been active in seeking SWBT and other CLECs to provide service in rural exchanges, but up to this point in time all CLECs have refused to come to rural exchanges in Texas to compete against the incumbent LEC. This merger should not be approved without a commitment to serve rural out-of-region exchanges in Texas.

Advanced Telecommunications Services

SWBT has set forth a deployment schedule for DSL services. The deployment of DSL service is limited to metropolitan areas. Not a single rural, non-metropolitan wire center is included in the deployment schedule for DSL services. The deployment of DSL service solely

in metropolitan wire centers is totally contrary to Sections 254(a) and 706(a) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. DSL service should be equally available to rural customers.

Barrier to Entry

In Texas, state law prohibits municipal electric systems from providing telecommunications services. Municipal electric systems can help fill the void in local services competition in rural, non-metropolitan exchanges. SBC should commit to working to remove the municipal electric system prohibition. A number of rural municipal electric systems in Texas stand ready to provide advanced telecommunications services to their customers.

II. Conditions Do Not Respond To The Lack Of Competition In Rural Texas

A. Conditions do not recognize the failure to comply with Statutory Mandates

The merger conditions are oblivious to the track record of Southwestern Bell in meeting the obligations which were imposed by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("TA96" or "the Act"). Section 254(a) of the Act required:

> (2) ACCESS TO ADVANCED SERVICES - Access to advanced telecommunications and information services should be provided in all regions of the Nation.
>
> (3) ACCESS IN RURAL AND HIGH COST AREAS - Consumers in all regions of the Nation, including low-income consumers and those in rural, insular, and high cost areas, should have access to telecommunications and information services, including interexchange services and advanced telecommunications and information services, that are reasonably comparable to those services provided in urban areas and that are available at rates that

> are reasonably comparable to rates charged for similar services in urban areas.

The Section 254 mandates are simple and straightforward. Yet, in spite of these mandates to provide advanced telecommunications services in rural areas equitably with the deployment of such services in urban areas, SBC rolls out its DSL offering **only in metropolitan areas.**[1]

The Section 254 mandates are further reinforced in Section 706(a). In pertinent part, it states:

> The Commission and each State commission with regulatory jurisdiction over telecommunications services shall encourage the deployment on a reasonable and timely basis of advanced telecommunications capability **to all Americans** (emphasis added).

The mandates of Sections 254(a) and 706(a) are not satisfied with a token effort to provide such services to rural areas. Yet, up to this point in time these mandates have been ignored and Condition No. 20(c), as will be pointed out in more detail later in these Comments, in no way satisfies these clearly stated requirements for serving rural customers.

B. Conditions do not properly reflect the need to remove barriers to entry

There is no facilities-based local phone competition in the Texas Cities of Greenville, Bowie, Weatherford, Fredericksburg or Tulia. There is no facilities-based competition in other Southwestern Bell rural exchanges. The Commission has recently acknowledged that local phone competition by CLECs is concentrated in urban areas and also is focused primarily on

[1] See SBC's web site <www.sbc.com> for a listing of the location and deployment dates for DSL services.

business customers.[2] The Commission stated in the *Competitive Networks* proceeding that barriers to the development of competitive networks must be eliminated.[3] In addition, the Commission also noted that "electric utility companies" make excellent candidates for bringing about competitive networks because of the ability to use existing facilities.[4] By this, the Commission meant that electric utilities can make use of existing rights-of-way and fiber optic cable facilities which are part of the electric distribution systems. This same logic should apply to municipal electric systems as well. The Greenville, Texas municipal utility has an extensive fiber optic cable network which would be ideal for providing telecommunications services.

Currently the municipal electric systems of the Cities of Bowie, Greenville, Fredericksburg, Tulia and Weatherford are prohibited under Texas law from providing telecommunications services.[5] The Commission previously held that the "any entity" provision of Section 253(a) of the Act did not preempt the prohibition against Texas municipalities from providing telecommunications services, but the Commission did not reach the issue of whether Section 253(a) preempts the prohibition as it applies to municipal electric systems.[6] The Commission's decision was appealed by the City of Abilene.[7] The D.C. Circuit Court of

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[2] *In the Matter of Promotion of Competitive Networks in Local Telecommunications Markets*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry, FCC 99-141 (rel. July 7, 1999)*(Competitive Networks)*, at ¶13.

[3] *Competitive Networks* at ¶5.

[4] *Competitive Networks* at ¶19.

[5] TEX. UTILITIES CODE, §54.202 (West 1998), formerly TEX.CIV.STAT.ANN.art.1446c-O§3.251(d)(West Supp.1996).

[6] *In the Matter of the Public Utility Commission of Texas*, 13 FCC Rcd 3460,3549 at ¶190 (rel.Oct 1, 1997).

[7] *City of Abilene, Texas v. F.C.C.*, 164 F. 3d 49, (D.C. Cir. 1999) (*Abilene*).

Appeals also did not reach the issue of whether Section 253(a) preempts the prohibition as it applies to municipal electric systems.[8]

Even without reaching the preemption issue, the Commission should condition the merger on a commitment by SBC to lobby in writing and in testimony before Congress and the Texas Legislature to remove the prohibition, at the earliest opportunity. This is an important step to removing a barrier to the establishment of competitive networks in rural communities in Texas and a start at carrying out the mandates of Sections 254(a) and 706(a) of the Act.

III. Out-of-Region Conditions Totally Ignore Rural Communities

A. Out-of-Region Conditions Only Apply to Urban Areas

The most ballyhooed component of the merger conditions is the commitment by SWBT to provide local phone competition in 30 out-of-region markets. Condition No. 61 requires SBC/Ameritech to offer local services in the following **urban** markets.

Phase	Urban Area	Timeline
1	Boston, Miami and Seattle	1 year after Merger Closing Date
2	12 Additional Markets chosen by SBC/Ameritech	18 months after Closing Date

[8] *Abilene* at 53, f.n.7..

3	15 Additional Markets chosen by SBC/Ameritech	30 months after Closing Date, or 60 days after the date SBC/Ameritech LECs have authorization to supply interLATA voice and data to at least 60 percent of its access lines, whichever is later

For Phase Nos. 2 and 3 of the Out-of-Region local services implementation, SBC/Ameritech may choose from the following urban markets:

Albany, NY
Albuquerque, NM
Atlanta, GA
Baltimore, MD
Baton Rouge, LA
Birmingham, AL
Boulder, CO
Buffalo, NY
Cedar Rapids, IA
Charlotte, NC
Cincinnati, OH
Colorado Springs, CO
Denver, CO
Des Moines, IA
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Greensboro, NC
Greenville, SC
Harrisburg, PA
Honolulu, HI
Jacksonville, FL
Las Vegas, NV
Louisville, KY
Memphis, TN
Middlesex, NJ
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
Nashville, TN
Nassau, NY
New Orleans, LA
New York, NY
Newark, NJ
Norfolk, VA
Orlando, FL
Passaic, NJ
Philadelphia, PA
Phoenix, AZ
Pittsburgh, PA
Portland, OR
Raleigh, NC
Richmond, VA
Rochester, NY
Salt Lake, UT
Syracuse, NY
Tampa, FL
Tucson, AZ
Washington, D.C.
West Palm Beach, FL
Wilmington, DE

To add insult to injury, SBC through its SWBT subsidiary, has been a major force in lobbying to impose or lobbying against removal of state prohibitions designed to prevent rural municipal electric systems from competing against incumbent LECs. In other words, SBC is unwilling to compete in out-of-region **rural** wire centers and, at the same time, SBC has actively been engaged in preventing municipal electric systems from being able to compete and provide

advanced telecommunications services.

B. SWBT and Other CLECs Have Refused to Provide Facilities-Based Competition in Rural Communities in Texas

SWBT and other CLECs have refused to provide competition in rural areas of Texas. In major urban areas of Texas there is some meaningful facilities-based competition, particularly in Dallas, Houston, and Austin.

In March of last year thirty-four (34) rural communities came together to form Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition. All of these communities are served by GTE. The City of Tulia and the City of Fredericksburg were part of that coalition of cities. On March 10, 1998 the group issued a press release, which was sent to all major dailies in Texas, as well as dozens of weekly newspapers. The reason that this group of rural communities came together is stated in the release.[9]

> The coalition's goal is to assure that all citizens receive the benefits of advanced telecommunications technology as soon as possible and cost-effectively. The cities in the coalition are interested in receiving advanced telecommunications services like Caller ID and high speed data transmission in areas currently not receiving these services. In addition, cities are interested in improving the quality of phone service.

The coalition notified more than eighty-five (85) CLECs and every trade association with CLEC members to provide Statements of Interest to provide local phone service in one or more

[9] See Attachment A.

of the thirty-four (34) of the communities.[10] Individual members of the coalition also called CLECs to encourage them to submit Statements of Interest.

Tragically, no CLEC, **including SWBT**, submitted a Statement of Interest to serve any of the thirty-four communities. SWBT responded that it could not provide service in any of the thirty-four (34) communities because it did not have a Certificate of Authority (COA) to serve those "out-of-region" communities.[11] On June 6, 1996 SWBT applied for a COA for ten exchanges located in the Dallas Metroplex (urban area). SWBT has never applied to the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT") for authority to serve an out-of-region rural wire center or exchange. Undoubtedly, SBC has yet to receive state commission approval to serve the 30 out-of-region **urban** areas of Condition No. 61, but SBC is sure to ask and most likely will receive such authority.

IV. DSL and Advanced Services Deployment Conditions Short-Change Rural Communities

A. SWBT's DSL deployment schedule does not include rural communities

SWBT announced earlier this year that it would deploy DSL service in metropolitan (urban) areas, but as of this date SWBT has not been willing to commit to a deployment date for even one rural central office. SWBT has announced that it will offer DSL services in its five state area in the central offices located in the following metropolitan areas. (See Attachment D).

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[10] See Attachment B, Request for Statements of Interest.

[11] See Attachment C.

Austin, TX	Tulsa, OK
Little Rock, AR	Beaumont, TX
Kansas City, KS	Dallas, TX
Topeka, KS	El Paso, TX
Wichita, KS	Ft. Worth, TX
Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX
St. Louis, MO	Lubbock, TX
Oklahoma City, OK	San Antonio, TX

Last week Southwestern Bell notified the Mayor of Greenville, Texas that SWBT has no plans to deploy DSL services in that community. (See Attachment E). Neither the City of Bowie nor the City of Weatherford have been notified that DSL services will be rolled out for the SWBT customers in those communities. As part of their municipal electric systems, Greenville, Bowie, Tulia, Fredericksburg and Weatherford would like the option to be able to provide such advanced telecommunications services to their citizens. Municipal electric systems in other states, like Harlan, Iowa and Glasgow, Kentucky, are providing high speed broadband telecommunications services.

B. DSL and Advanced Services Deployment Conditions for Rural Communities is Very Weak

While other conditions are extremely detailed and have many date or time specific performance measures, Condition No. 20(c) is extremely vague. The Condition is set forth as follows:

> SBC/Ameritech shall identify the 10 percent of rural wire centers in each SBC/Ameritech state that have the highest proportion of low-income subscribers as estimated by using the latest available census data ("Low Income Rural Pool").

> After SBC/Ameritech deploys xDSL in at least 20 rural wire centers in a particular state at least 10 percent of the rural wire centers in which SBC/Ameritech deploys xDSL in that State shall be wire centers from the Low Income Pool.

First, what is a "rural" wire center? Is it determined solely by number access lines? Can a wire center with few access lines in the Dallas Metropolitan area qualify as a "rural" wire center? The five cities comprising the Texas Rural Municipal Electric Utilities are served by wire centers of less than 25,000 access lines and none of them are part of a metropolitan exchange. Second, suppose SWBT does not deploy DSL in 20 rural wire centers, then, the "Low Income Rural Pool" requirement never kicks in. Third, the Condition in no way addresses the imbalance or inequities of advanced services between rural and urban wire centers. In Texas that there are approximately 200 SWBT metropolitan wire centers and approximately 300 SWBT rural wire centers (non-metro wire centers). For 1999, SWBT has committed to deploy DSL in 160 Texas metropolitan wire centers.[12] (See last page of Attachment D). There is nothing in Condition No. 20(c) which requires SWBT to offer Advanced Services in any rural wire centers. DSL should be equally available to rural customers. Just like Texas, SWBT is deploying DSL only in metropolitan wire exchanges in the other four states.[13] By the end of 1999 SWBT will make DSL service available to 3.8 million households and businesses in its five state area — but DSL service will not be available to a single household or business served by a rural wire

[12] The last page of Attachment D indicates that there are 160 wire centers, subject to DSL deployment in 1999, with the letters "TX" for Texas in the wire center abbreviations.

[13] See pages three and four of Attachment D.

center.[14]

Condition No. 20(c) does not contain any performance measures with regard to the level of deployment of DSL and other Advanced Services in rural wire centers. At the very lease, rural municipal electric systems should be given the green light to offer such services in order to partially fill the void.

V. Municipal Electric Systems Provide the Best Source for Facilities-Based Competition for Some Rural Communities

Rural municipal electric systems have shown themselves capable of offering advanced telecommunications services in competition with Incumbent LECs. Two examples immediately come to mind, Glasgow, Kentucky's Electric Power Board and Harlan, Iowa's Municipal Electric System.[15] Both of these municipal utilities are located in rural areas of their respective states. They both offer state of the art telecommunications services are reasonable prices.

VI. Conditions To Foster Competition in Rural Texas

The Texas Rural Municipal Electric Utilities recommend that two additional conditions be added to the proposed conditions. These new conditions are only a beginning point as far as fostering competition in rural areas of Texas.

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[14] See Attachment F.

[15] See Attachment G for a summary of the advanced services being offered by these two municipally owned systems.

New Condition No. 1: Require SBC, to commit to use its lobbying muscle before Congress and the Texas Legislature to remove the state prohibition on municipal utilities offering telecommunications services. The commitment would be manifested in both written and oral testimony before Congress and the Texas Legislature.

While New Condition No. 1 does not guarantee the prohibition would be removed, it greatly increases the chance of that outcome.

New Condition No. 2: Require SBC through SWBT, to offer telephone services in five out-of-region rural exchanges in Texas. SWBT could choose the five exchanges from the following list of ten exchanges. This condition would be implemented within twelve (12) months of the Merger Closing Date and would be subject to substantial penalties if not satisfied.

SBC would select the five rural exchanges from the following list of Texas exchanges.

Centerville	Morgan
Charlotte	Nixon
Gatesville	Spearman
Fredericksburg	Troup
Haskell	Tulia
Howe	Van Horn

The total number of access lines for all ten of the foregoing exchanges is a small fraction of the number of access lines in any one of the thirty out-of-region metropolitan areas set forth in Attachment F to the proposed conditions filed by SBC/Ameritech on June 29, 1999. Satisfying New Condition No. 2 would be at least a start at recognizing the obligations imposed by Sections 254(a) and 706(a) of the Act.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____
JIM BOYLE
State Bar No. 02795000
Attorney for the Texas Rural Municipal Electric Utilities

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was sent via hand delivery or U.S. Mail to all parties of record on this 19th day of July, 1999.

_____
Jim Boyle

Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition

1005 Congress, Suite 550 Austin, Texas 78701 512-474-1501/ Fax: 512-474-2507

NEWS RELEASE

March 10, 1998
For more information, contact 512-474-1501

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cities Join Forces To Foster Local Telephone Competition

Thirty-four Texas cities have joined together to seek competition in local telephone service for their communities. On March 6, Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition issued a Request for Statements of Interest inviting telephone companies to propose how they would serve local telephone customers in one or more of its member cities.

The coalition's goal is to assure that all citizens receive the benefits of advanced telecommunications technology as soon as possible and cost-effectively. The cities in the coalition are interested in receiving advanced telecommunications services like Caller ID and high speed data transmission in areas currently not receiving these services. In addition, cities are interested in improving the quality of phone service.

Local telephone competition became legal due to recent amendments to the Federal Telecommunications Act and the Texas Public Utility Regulatory Act. But in Texas there has not been widespread telephone competition as envisioned by lawmakers, said Austin attorney Jim Boyle, who represents the coalition of Texas cities. "Concerted action is needed to make local telephone competition a reality instead of just something which hypothetically could be done," he added.

Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition believe competition would improve all local telephone service, from local and long distance services to internet access and cable TV. The municipalities hope to enter into new franchise agreements with a provider or providers who can supply the most benefits to their citizens. These benefits may take the form of lower prices, improved quality of service, or more service options.

The local telephone service franchises with each of the cities has expired or will expire soon. It is anticipated the cities will sign new franchise agreements for periods of 5 to 10 years, depending on the capital investment proposed by the providers.

Statements of Interest from telecommunications providers are due to the coalition by April 2. A formal Request for Proposals to take competitive bids will be distributed by May 8 to the telecommunications providers expressing an interest. Company bids must be submitted by June 12, and the bid evaluation is scheduled to be completed by July 17.

The coalition continues to grow, and it is encouraging any city that wants improved telephone service to join with them. Their goal is to assure that all citizens receive the benefits of advanced telecommunications technology as soon as possible.

Members of the Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition are: Abernathy, Beach City, Blue Ridge, Canton, Centerville, Charlotte, Del Rio, Floresville, Fredericksburg, Grand Saline, Happy, Haskell, Hawkins, Higgins, Howe, Knox City, Lorenzo, Marquez, Morgan, Nixon, Panhandle, Panorama Village, Perryton, Poth, Reno, Savoy, Spearman, Throckmorton, Tulia, Van Horn, Vega, Venus, Wellington, and Whiteface.

-30-

B

Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition
REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

BACKGROUND

The Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition is a coalition of municipalities which have joined together for the purpose of encouraging competition in the provision of local phone service. These municipalities are issuing this Request for Statements of Interest (RFSI) to identify companies which may have an interest in providing local telephone service within one or more of. its member cities. The Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition include the Cities of Abernathy, Beach City, Blue Ridge, Canton, Centerville, Charlotte, Del Rio, Floresville, Fredericksburg, Grand Saline, Happy, Haskell, Hawkins, Higgins, Howe, Knox City, Lorenzo, Marquez, Morgan, Nixon, Panhandle, Panorama Village, Perryton, Poth, Reno, Savoy, Spearman, Throckmorton, Tulia, Van Horn, Vega, Venus, Wellington, and Whiteface ("CITIES"). All of the CITIES currently receive local telephone service from GTE. The local telephone service franchises with each of the CITIES has expired or will expire in the not too distant future

The CITIES wish to see the benefits of local telephone competition become a reality. A Request for Proposals to take competitive bids for serving some or all of the CITIES will be sent to those firms who submit a Statement of Interest. It is the intention of the municipalities to enter into new franchise agreements with a provider or providers who can supply the most benefits to their citizens. Such benefits may take the form of lower prices, improved quality of service or more service options.

The CITIES are particularly interested in hearing from any firm or company with a Certificate of Authority (COA) or a Service Provider Certificate of Authority (SPCOA) from the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) to provide service in all or part of GTE's service territory[1] or any firm or company who is interested in applying for a COA or SPCOA to serve within the service territory.

The CITIES in general have small to medium sized populations ranging from 200 to 30,000. Information on the location, population and exchange access lines for each city is supplied in Attachment A. Many are found in rural areas of the state and are not receiving advanced telecommunications services like Caller ID and high speed data transmission as quickly as they believe is necessary. Some of the CITIES believe that service quality needs to be improved. The CITIES seek interest from those companies who are committed to providing the latest technology and services in a cost-effective manner so that the CITIES' residents may benefit from such services.

Replies to this Request for Statements of Interest must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 1998. CITIES anticipate issuing the Request for Proposals (RFP) by May 8 to

[1] This includes the service territory of GTE Southwest, Inc. and Contel of Texas, Inc.

parties who respond to this Request for Statements of Interest. While CITIES encourage interest in serving all of the municipalities; they will accept Statements of Interest for serving one or more cities in a distinct geographic area of the State. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Financial strength of the firm.
2. Ability to provide quality of service at or above industry standards.
3. Services offered.
4. Price.
5. Other.

CITIES seek to gain economies of scale through joint issuance of this Request for Statement of Interest and the subsequent RFP. Companies will be encouraged to develop service options that allow Cities of various sizes and characteristics to tailor their telephone service to meet the needs of the individual communities. It is anticipated that the Cities will sign similar franchises for a period of 5 to 10 years, depending on the capital investment proposed by the provider.

At the time of the issuance of an RFP there may be additional CITIES who have joined Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition. Detailed information on all Cities will be provided in the RFP.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Those firms who are interested in serving or continuing to serve any or all of the CITIES should provide the following information.

A. Company information including:
   1. Company name
   2. Company address
   3. Phone number
   4. Fax number
   5. Name of contact person
   6. E-mail address

B. Identify the municipalities where your firm is interested in providing local exchange service or other services which may be bundled with local exchange service, like cable TV or Internet access.

C. Provide a copy of any orders issued by the PUCT which relate to the issuance of a COA or SPCOA for your firm to serve all or a portion of GTE's service territory.

D. If your firm intends to apply for or amend its COA or its SPCOA to provide service within GTE's service territory, please indicate what portion of the service territory the application or amendment will affect.

E. A copy of a franchise agreement you would propose having any or all of the CITIES adopt (optional).

F. Copy of your Company's most recent annual report and audited financial statements (if not included in the annual report).

G. List of municipalities where your firm is currently providing local phone service.

COMMUNICATIONS

All written or oral communications regarding this request should be submitted directly to:

Jim Boyle
Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition
1005 Congress Ave., Suite 550
Austin, Texas 78701

Telephone: (512) 474-1501
FAX: (512) 474-2507

SCHEDULE

- Submission of Statements of Interest by Thursday, April 2, 1998.
- Issuance of Request for Proposals by Friday, May 8,1998.
- Bids received on Friday, June 12, 1998.
- Bid evaluation completed by Friday, July 17,1998.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Texas Cities for Local Phone Competition or their representatives shall keep information contained on the pages clearly labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" from disclosure to Third Parties unless instructed to do so by the Attorney General of the State of Texas or his representative or by order of the Public Utility Commission of Texas or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

City	County	Region[1]	Population[2]	Exchange Access Lines[3]
Abernathy	Hale	South Plains	2,720	1,281
Beach City	Chambers	Gulf Coast	852	3,631
Blue Ridge	Collin	North Central Texas	521	1,081
Canton	Van Zandt	East Texas	3,000	4,020
Centerville	Leon	Brazos Valley	812	1,880
Charlotte	Atacosa	Alamo	1,475	684
Del Rio	Val Verde	Middle Rio Grande	30,705	19,115
Floresville	Wilson	Alamo	5,247	5,714
Fredricksburg	Gillespie	Alamo	6,934	9,873
Grand Saline	Van Zandt	East Texas	2,630	2,730
Happy	Swisher	Panhandle	588	354
Haskell	Haskell	West Central Texas	3,362	2,193
Hawkins	Wood	East Texas	1,309	3,113
Higgins	Lipscomb	Panhandle	464	420
Howe	Grayson	Texoma	2,713	1,411

[1] Texas is divided into 24 regional councils of government (COGs).

[2] TML Directory 1997-1998.

[3] 1996 Access Line Data.

City	County	Region	Population	Exchange Access Lines
Knox City	Knox	West Central	1,440	1,040
Lorenzo	Crosby	South Plains	1,208	613
Marquez	Leon	Brazos Valley	270	637
Morgan	Bosque	Heart of Texas	451	287
Nixon	Gonzales	Golden Crescent	1,995	1,133
Panhandle	Carson	Panhandle	2,353	1,519
Panorama Village	Montgomery	Gulf Coast	1,556	8,850[4]
Perryton	Ochiltree	Panhandle	7,607	4,982
Poth	Wilson	Alamo	1,642	1,034
Reno	Lamar	North East Texas	1,784	2,373
Savoy	Fannin	Texoma	877	1,741[5]
Spearman	Hansford	Panhandle	3,197	2,055
Throckmorton	Throckmorton	West Central Texas	1,036	698
Tulia	Swisher	Panhandle	4,703	2,495
Van Horn	Culberson	Rio Grande	2,930	1,430

[4] Includes the City of Willis.

[5] Savoy is served from the Bells/Savoy exchange.

City	County	Region	Population	Exchange Access Lines
Vega	Oldham	Panhandle	840	769
Venus	Johnson	North Central	1,609	1,229
Wellington	Collingsworth	Panhandle	2,456	1,657
Whiteface	Cochran	South Plains	512	271
TOTAL			101,798	92,313

C

Southwestern Bell Telephone
1440 Empire Central
Suite 140
Dallas, Texas 75247

Southwestern Bell

March 26 , 1998

Mr. Jim Boyle
1005 Congress, Suite 550
Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. Boyle:

David Cole has asked me to respond to your inquiry regarding Southwestern Bell as a potential local service provider in the 34 municipalities referenced in your letter dated March 12, 1998. I am responsible for our operations as a COA in the North Dallas area.

We are not prepared to respond to the coalition's request for Statements of Interest, Jim, because our COA authorization covers only ten exchanges in the North Dallas area. We do however, very much appreciate the interest that these communities have expressed in Southwestern Bell service.

Please call me at 214-268-3000 if I can be of further assistance in this matter.

Vicki Peterson
Director-Operations

D

SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE (SWBT) COMPANY

Network Notification No. SW1998009, Issue 3

Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL)

SWBT plans to deploy ADSL in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas to address customer demands for bandwidth to obtain, for example, faster Internet access. ADSL, envisioned primarily for Internet and telecommuting applications, will provide customers with network access at bit rates as high as 1.544Mbps (see below). Data is transported over an existing telephone line (i.e., a twisted copper pair) with no effect on delivery of normal telephone calls. ADSL will be available from SWBT following regulatory approval.

Due to technology and facility constraints such as loop length, loop make-up, and spectral interference factors; ADSL will not be available to all customers served by those central offices which are ADSL-equipped. To be eligible technically for ADSL, customers must be located within 17,500 feet of the office and their lines must meet certain transmission criteria. In addition, ADSL requires a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) modem, customer premises equipment (CPE), that is compatible with telephone company equipment. ADSL will be offered in the central offices listed below using the Alcatel 1000 ATM Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer.

ADSL will be available in the following packages:

- 128Kbps Upstream to the Network, 384Kbps to 1.544Mbps Downstream from the Network
- 384Kbps Upstream to the Network, 1.544Mbps to 6Mbps Downstream from the Network

References:

Technical Publication 76730

For more information, contact:

Manager-Information Release & Services
Southwestern Bell Telephone
530 McCullough, Room 2-E-02
San Antonio, TX 78215
210-886-1192

Reason for Reissue:
Issue 3: reissued to correct the offering from three packages to two packages, to correct the date of availability, and to clarify that ADSL will be available in additional metropolitan areas at a later date.

Contact Personnel:
Your Southwestern Bell Account or ICSC Representative

or

Lee Culver
530 McCullough
Room 6-L-03
San Antonio, TX 78215
210-886-2172
lc1919@sbc.com

Tom Maxwell
530 McCullough
Room 7-C-02
San Antonio, TX 78215
210-886-2286
tm7152@sbc.com

Location of Change:
Initial deployment of ADSL for a technology/service trial was made in Austin, Texas, during the third quarter of 1997. SWBT plans to offer ADSL in the five (5) trial offices plus an additional five (5) Austin offices, in January 1999.

Location of Change:			**Date of Planned Change:**
CLLI Code	**City/ Central Office**	**State**	**Implementation Date**
AUSTTXFADS0	Austin Fairfax	TX	Week of January 29, 1999 - trial equipment already installed
AUSTTXFIDS0	Austin Fireside	TX	Week of January 29, 1999 - trial equipment already installed
AUSTTXGRDS0	Austin Greenwood	TX	Week of January 29, 1999 - trial equipment already installed
AUSTTXHOCG0	Austin Homestead	TX	Week of January 29, 1999 - trial equipment already installed
AUSTTXHODS0	Austin Homestead	TX	Week of January 29, 1999 - trial equipment already installed
AUSTTXJODS0	Austin Jollyville	TX	Week of January 29, 1999
AUSTTXLWRS0	Austin Lakeway	TX	Week of January 29, 1999
AUSTTXPFDS0	Austin Pflugerville	TX	Week of January 29, 1999

AUSTTXRRDS0	Austin Round Rock	TX	Week of January 29, 1999
AUSTTXTEDS0	Austin Tennyson	TX	Week of January 29, 1999

SWBT plans to offer ADSL at a later date in the following metropolitan areas:

Little Rock, AR
Kansas City, KS
Topeka, KS
Wichita, KS
Kansas City, MO
St. Louis, MO
Oklahoma City, OK
Tulsa, OK
Austin, TX
Beaumont, TX
Dallas, TX
El Paso, TX
Fort Worth, TX
Houston, TX
Lubbock, TX
San Antonio, TX

SWBT 1999 DSL CO Deployment Schedule

SWBT ADSL Deployment Office List as of March 1999

Currently Deployed	1st Quarter			2nd Quarter			3rd Quarter		4th Quarter	
AUSTTXFA	AUSTTXLW	DLLSTXDS	HSTNTXHU	AUSTTXHI	STLSMO40	KSCYMO45	NRMNOKMA	LTRKARSW	RKWLTXPA	KSCYMO25
AUSTTXFI	AUSTTXTE	DLLSTXCH	HSTNTXUN	AUSTTXWA	HVTRMO67	KSCYMO40	EDMDOKMA	LTRKARUL	DLLSTXSU	OKCYOKNI
AUSTTXGR	AUSTTXJO	DLLSTXDN	HSTNTXGL	AUSTTXTW	STCHMO63		OKCYOKPA	TPKAKSJA	DLLSTXSE	OKCYOKGR
AUSTTXHO	AUSTTXRR	DLLSTXLN	HSTNTXBW	ELPSTXHA	STLSMO23		OKCYOKSK	TPKAKSFA	FTWOTXAL	PDMTOKMA
	AUSTTXPF	FTWOTXAX	HSTNTXOR	ELPSTXNO	STLSMO42		OKCYOKSW	TPKAKS37	FTWOTXBE	OKCYOKWH
	DLLSTXAD	FTWOTXPE	HSTNTXDP	ELPSTXMS	STLSMO45		OKCYOKVI	WCHTKSDE	FTWOTXBR	TULSOKAM
	DLLSTXDI	FTWOTXKE	HSTNTXMC	LBCKTXSW	STLSMO20		OKCYOKME	WCHTKSAN	FTWOTXBY	LTRKAREA
	DLLSTXRE	FTWOTXWA	HSTNTXBA	LBCKTXFR	STLSMO43		OKCYOKOR	WCHTKSOL	FTWOTXLW	LTRKARVA
	ALLNTXSA	FTWOTXMA	HSTNTXAI	LBCKTXPA	MNCHMO59		OKCYOKSU	WCHTKSAM	RONKTXWO	LTRKARTO
	FRSCTXCO	FTWOTXBN	TBLLTXCL	LBCKTXPS	STLSMO41		OKCYOKUN	WCHTKSCE	HSTNTXSE	TPKAKSNO
	FRSCTXES	FTWOTXCI	SPRNTXNO	ABLNTXOW	STLSMO25		OKCYOKPN	WCHTKSNW	HSTNTXID	WCHTKSML
	duplicate	FTWOTXCE	SPRNTXSO	ABLNTXOR	FNTNMO54		YUKNOKMA	WCHTKS47	HSTNTXWE	WCHTKSRH
	DLLSTXRN	FTWOTXED	HSTNTXOX	SNANTXFR	VYPKMO64		OKCYOKCE	WCHTKSAH	TBLLTXTB	WCHTKSTE
	DLLSTXNM	FTWOTXWS	HSTNTXGP	SNANTXDI	HGRGMO56		OKCYOKGA		PNHRTXPN	WCHTKSKE
	DLLSTXTA	FTWOTXCR	HSTNTXSU	SNANTXTA	STLSMO01		YUKNOKSO		HSTNTXFA	
	DLLSTXMS	FTWOTXEU	HSTNTXHO	SNANTXWE	STLSMO22		OKCYOKPE		CYPRTXCY	
	DLLSTXDA	FTWOTXBU	HSTNTXNA	SNANTXBA	MXVLMO60		OKCYOKWI		BUMTTXVI	
	DLLSTXRY	FTWOTXAR	HSTNTXLA	SNANTXSL	KSCYKSJO		TULSOKRI		AUSTTXMC	
	DLLSTXEV	FTWOTXGL	HSTNTXOV	SNANTXUC	KSCYKSNA		TULSOKNA		AUSTTXCV	
	DLLSTXME	FTWOTXAT	HSTNTXSA	SNANTXMC	KSCYKSLE		TULSOKTB		AUSTTXMF	
	DLLSTXHA	FTWOTXEC	HSTNTXFA	SNANTXCU	KSCYKSSH		TULSOKTE		AUSTTXBC	
	MCKNTXLI	FTWOTXBB	HSTNTXAL	SNANTXPE	KSCYKSCB		TULSOKGE		AUSTTXBE	
	DLLSTXEM	HSTNTXAP	HSTNTXPR	SNANTXGE	KSCYMO05		TULSOKJE		AUSTTXLE	
	DLLSTXFL	HSTNTXFR	HSTNTXMO	SNANTXWA	KSCYMO55		SPLPOKMA		AUSTTXLT	
	DLLSTXLA	HSTNTXWL	HSTNTXPA	SNANTXLA	KSCYKSOL		TULSOKHI		SNANTXWE	
	DLLSTXFB	HSTNTXPE	HSTNTX3R	SNANTXCA	KSCYKSST		TULSOKFI		SNANTXBR	
	DLLSTXNO	HSTNTXEE	BUMTTXTW	SNANTXLE	KSCYMO21		TULSOKWO		SNANTXTH	
	DLLSTXRI	ALVNTXAL	BUMTTXUN	SNANTXMA	KSCYMO20		LTRKARFR		SNANTXLA	
	DLLSTXRO	HSTNTXLP	PTARTXVO	STLSMO07	KSCYMO42		LTRKARMO		HVTRMO65	
	DLLSTXDV	HSTNTXRI		STLSMO26	KSCYMO23		LTRKARSK		IMPRMO58	
	DLLSTXMC	HSTNTXCL		STLSMO06	KSCYMO02		LTRKARTE		ANTOMO50	
	DLLSTXGP	HSTNTXCA		STLSMO04	KSCYMO24		LTRKARWI		KSCYKSBS	
	DLLSTXFE	HSTNTXBU		STLSMO21	BLSPMOCA		LTRKARCA		KSCYKSBN	
	DLLSTXWH	RSBGTXRR		STLSMO27	KSCYMO04		LTRKARLO		SMVLMOTR	
	DLLSTXFR	HSTNTXJA		CHFDMO52	KSCYMO48		LTRKARVI		KSCYMO23	

All deployment schedules are subject to change. This is our current best estimate of the 1999 deployment schedule.

http://www.sbc.com/PublicAffairs/PublicPolicy/Notices/99DSLdeployment

E

Dennis Bailey
Regional Director-
External Affairs

Southwestern Bell Telephone
208 N. Rockwall
Terrell, Texas 75160
Phone 214 520-5307
Fax 214 484-7118

Southwestern Bell

July 8, 1999

Mayor Sue Ann Harting
Mayor
City of Greenville
2104 Johnson St.
Greenville, Texas 75401

Dear Sue Ann:

The attached map identifies the central offices that have been equipped with ADSL equipment in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Area. At this time the Greenville Exchange is not included in our business case deployment. We will continue to evaluate the Greenville Exchange for deployment of ADSL.

Sincerely

Dennis Bailey

F

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Southwestern Bell Launches High-Speed DSL Service in San Antonio

Approximately 225,000 San Antonio Customers Eligible to Receive Lightning-Fast Internet Access, Data Service

Area ISPs to Offer Southwestern Bell's DSL Transport

San Antonio, Texas, July 1, 1999

Fasten your seat belts, San Antonio. Southwestern Bell is shifting the Internet into overdrive.

To meet customers' growing need for bandwidth and faster Internet access, Southwestern Bell will rollout high-speed Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) service in San Antonio on July 1.

DSL enables customers to access the Internet or corporate networks at speeds up to 200 times faster than conventional analog modems.

"Customers in San Antonio and elsewhere want reliable, affordable high-speed access to the Internet and corporate networks, and we're meeting this need by aggressively deploying DSL service throughout Southwestern Bell's territory," said John H. Atterbury, president and CEO, Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. "DSL is an ideal broadband solution for Internet enthusiasts, telecommuters and small businesses, and is an important addition to Southwestern Bell's full range of data services."

San Antonio is part of the second phase of Southwestern Bell's massive DSL deployment. The first phase included Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and Austin, and made DSL service available to 1.6 million customers. By the end of 1999, Southwestern Bell plans to make DSL service available to 3.8 million households and businesses in Texas, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Southwestern Bell's parent company, SBC Communications Inc., is moving aggressively to become the leading DSL provider in the country. Including the deployments in California and Nevada, SBC plans to make 9.8 million households and businesses DSL "serve-able" by the end of 1999, and the company's goal is to have 200,000 subscribers by year's end.

To provide customers with a choice of Internet Service Providers (ISP) in addition to Southwestern Bell Internet Service, Southwestern Bell has formed partnerships with America Online and regional ISPs. In San Antonio, Southwestern Bell has signed agreements with Internet Direct and Jump Point, and is negotiating with many others. Overall, more than 30 ISPs can currently offer Southwestern Bell's DSL service. The company is also working with Dell Computer Corp. and Compaq Computer Corp. to introduce DSL-ready computers.

Designed primarily for Internet and telecommuting applications, DSL enables businesses of all sizes to work smarter and home Internet enthusiasts to surf faster. Packaged with Internet service, DSL provides consumers and small businesses with faster access to the World Wide Web. DSL also allows telecommuters to connect to their corporate networks via dedicated, secure links to Southwestern Bell's network. DSL is an "always on" connection that eliminates the need for dial-ups. And, from a single phone line, subscribers can surf the Internet and talk on the phone simultaneously.

Southwestern Bell's standard DSL service provides downstream connection speeds up to 1.5 megabits per second - 50 times faster than traditional 28.8 kilobits per second (Kbps) analog modems - and an upstream connection speed of 128 Kbps. Standard service is available for as low as $39 per month, or $49 with Internet service from Southwestern Bell Internet Service.

For customers in need of higher speeds, Southwestern Bell offers a premium package with downstream connection speeds up to 6 Mbps - 200 times faster than a 28.8 Kbps modem - and an upstream connection speed of 384 Kbps. The premium package is available for as low as $129 per month. Equipment and installation for standard and premium service are available for a one-time charge as low as $198.

Downstream throughput speeds vary depending on a customer's distance from the central office and other factors, but customers are guaranteed a minimum downstream connection speed of 384 Kbps for standard service and 1.5 Mbps for premium service.

"DSL is emerging as the technology of choice for high-speed Internet and data access," Atterbury said. "Our DSL service is widely available and affordably priced, and provides a level of choice and reliability that competing technologies cannot match."

To receive service, customers must be located within 17,500 feet, or about 3.3 miles, of an DSL-equipped central office and their lines must meet certain transmission criteria. San Antonio residents can call 1-888-SWB-DSL1 or visit Southwestern Bell's Web site

(www.swbell.com/DSL) for more information. Web site visitors can enter their area code and prefix to determine if they are served by an DSL-equipped central office.

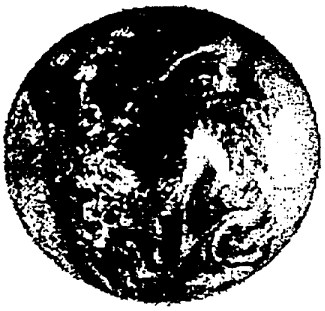
Also, by providing their name and phone number to a customer service representative or via the Web site, customers will be notified when DSL is available in their area. Residents can also visit the Web site to receive a complete listing of ISPs in their area that offer Southwestern Bell's DSL transport.

For customers who want high-speed access but are outside the DSL coverage area, Southwestern Bell offers ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network), a high-speed access service that provides digital connections at up to 128 Kbps. ISDN is universally available in the Southwestern Bell region; customers should call 1-800-SWB-ISDN.

The company's aggressive DSL deployment is an important step in its commitment to offer a full portfolio of data products and services to meet customers' evolving data needs. SBC's data business is growing approximately 33 percent a year, and the company continues to execute its plan to develop new data products and offer a high-speed, high-capacity network for next generation data traffic.

Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. provides basic and leading-edge telephone services and products to more than 14.7 million business and residential customers - a total of 16.7 million access lines - in Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas. It is a company of SBC Communications Inc., a global leader in the telecommunications industry, with more than 37.7 million access lines and 7.2 million wireless customers across the United States, as well as investments in telecommunications businesses in 11 countries. Under the Southwestern Bell, Pacific Bell, SNET, Nevada Bell and Cellular One brands, SBC, through its subsidiaries, offers a wide range of innovative services. SBC offers local and long-distance telephone service, wireless communications, data communications, paging, Internet access, and messaging, as well as telecommunications equipment, and directory advertising and publishing. SBC has more than 130,000 employees and its annual revenues rank it in the top 50 among Fortune 500 companies.

G



HARLAN MUNICIPAL UTILITIES

email: hmu@harlannet.com

Home

TeleCommunications

Built in 1996, Harlan's telecommunications infrastructure is Hybrid Fiber Coax (HFC). It consists of 9.3 miles of 60-strand fiber optic cable and 44 miles of coaxial cable.

There are over 60 power supplies that feed power to the system and provide backup in case of a power outage.

Millions of bits of information travel over this infrastructure every second, meeting the communication and entertainment needs of Harlan's citizen's.

The bandwidth of this system is 750 MHz, which is enough to provide 78 analog television channels and virtually an unlimited number of digital television channels. The current data capacity of the coax system is 10 Megabits per second and the fiber system is 155 Megabits per second.

An infra structure of this nature has the capability of providing high speed voice, video and data transmissions, remote meter reading, supervisory and data acquisitions (SCADA) for all utilities, telephony, video conferencing, load management, energy management services, and public safety functions that include emergency vehicle dispatch and traffic control, medic alert, and Security Systems.

What does this mean to YOU?

- Speeds of up to 50 times faster than with a dial up modem.
- Your phone line is not used, so a second phone line is not needed!
- No busy signals.....you don't have to dial in anymore!
- You have a constant connection to the internet.
- Unlimited access.

The following examples compare the speeds of dowloading a 10 megabyte file from the Internet

Product	Rates Per Second	Download Time
Analog Modems	28.8 / 56 kbps	46.3 / 23.8 minutes
ISDN Modems	64 / 128 kbps	20.8 / 10.4 minutes
Cable Modems	3 mbsp	26 seconds

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The Stanley Group

SIGCORP Communications

Visit the Harlan Chamber of Commerce Site to find out more about Harlan....

[Home] [Up] [Water] [Gas] [Electricity]
[Telecommunications] [Cable TV]

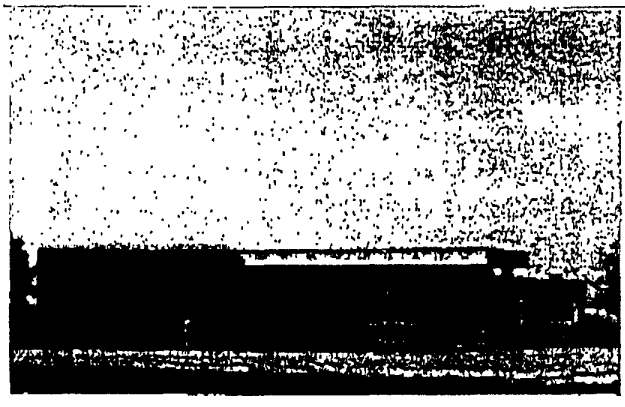
email us: hmu@harlannet.com

This page last updated on 07/01/99

Glasgow Electric Plant Board

electric power
technology
cable television

Commentary from the EPB's Superintendent, William J. Ray and Writings About the EPB



The Glasgow Electric Plant Board is Glasgow's city-owned utility. In addition to providing Glasgow's electric power, their high speed, city-wide communications network provides superior cable television service, DMX premium audio service, computer networking and data for the efficient operation of the electric system.

The Electric Plant Board has received a lot of publicity because of their communications projects. They've even been recognized by several national awards. For more information about the EPB and their ongoing projects (*and* new things in the works), click on the items above.

Glasgow Y2K Open 2000

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, email the Webmeister.

Our Mission

To provide the highest quality electric power, cable television and other telecommunications services at costs which make them practical and improve the standard of living for all the people of Glasgow.

Glasgow's Info-Highway Project

Click here to ask a question of the entry.

Category:	Business
Date of First Use:	June, 1989
Number of Users:	7,000
Description of Users:	2,500 households and businesses subscribe to cable television service, 750 PC workstations attach to the network, approximately 120 telephones are served by the network
Number of Sites:	2,500
Networking:	120 miles of broadband cable serve cable customers through direct connection to tv sets; serves data customers through a connection to a broadband interface card in individual PC's or file servers; serves telephone customers by connection to a voice interface unit which provides dial tone ringing and other features.

Summary:
Our project was meant to improve the way the City's electric utility sells electricity, provide a competitive cable television and telephone marketplace, and institute a city- wide computer "network of networks". These goals have been accomplished through the construction of 120 miles of bidirectional broadband plant which touches each home and business within the City. As a result, the people of Glasgow enjoy information age services today that the rest of the country is only beginning to anticipate at some yet-to-be-defined time in the future.

Demonstration of the Utility and Capability of the NII:
Our project effectively demonstrates the "highway" capabilities of the NII. The highway metaphor is appropriate since our system functions in much the same way as the city streets. Many different services are available to the people of Glasgow through our system at the same time. One lane of our "highway" carries telemetry and commands that the electric utility uses to operate its distribution and transmission system. Other lanes carry meter readings from electric and other utility meters and commands to control capacitor banks and outdoor lighting installations. Some of the highway is used to provide a competitive cable television service and a competitive telephone system. As a result, Glasgow is one of only a handful of cities which offers cable television service from more than one provider. Glasgow is probably the only city in the nation which offers dial tone from more than one source. Still other lanes are used to institute a city-wide metropolitan area network.

The city-wide network connects all of the K-12 classrooms, City agencies, utilities, and a growing number of homes and businesses. That means that children in an elementary school classroom can exchange E-Mail with the Mayor or the Superintendent of schools or a classmate with equal aplomb. It also means that parents can utilize the software, which they have purchased with their tax dollars or the schools, at night when before it was not being used at all. It also means that the lines of communication and involvement between parents, teachers, and school administrators (as well as the business community) have been opened up as they have never been before. Also, since all of the utilities and city and county agencies are on-line, most of the information which the public has bought and paid for is now available from any computer terminal in town which is attached to the network, twenty four hours a day. Amazingly, this information now comes to you instead of you having to go to city hall or the court house to get it.

A system like Glasgow's, flexible enough to accommodate whatever technology comes along or whatever services the people wish to receive, must be the distribution system which will be the electronic equivalent to today's local streets, driveways, and sidewalks. A National Information Infrastructure will be the equivalent of the Interstate Highway system which will provide the capability to leave the local systems like Glasgow's and move information all about the nation and the world.

Example of Practical Usage of the NII:
This project's practicality is demonstrated in its very existence. It is not a pilot or demonstration but rather a real, on-going, growing and economically successful project. Its ability to better manage the distribution of electric power has saved the people of Glasgow over $175,000 per year for over five years.

The competition in the cable television marketplace, which this project enables, saves the people of Glasgow over $1.2 million per year through reduced rates. The value of the drastically improved service and the amount of local programming available to the local citizens also has great value albeit difficult to quantify. In reality, these two functions alone amortize the cost of constructing the system. However, there are benefits that are not directly based in economics. The cable service is also used to educate. Local broadcasts of government meetings and classroom activities go far beyond the norm for any cable operator. In fact, the system is used for interactive distance learning and one elementary school uses fifth graders to produce a weekly newsmagazine program which is broadcast live to everyone in town. Another channel is utilized by a high school marketing class. It is called the AdVantage Network and all of the programming and advertising sales are produced by the class and their programs are distributed right from the high school classroom. As a result, 50% of the potential cable television customers subscribe to our system. The telephone service offered by the project also puts GTE on its toes and has already convinced them to put in a new digital switch and offer services it does not offer in other markets as small as Glasgow.

Probably the most dramatic results of our project are only beginning to be realized in the provision of connections to the city-wide computer network. In the beginning it was only used to create a virtual education network to replace a system of many standalone networks with no connectivity to each other. We then took what we had learned in tying the schools together and helped create a Geographic Information System tying PC workstations in city and county government agencies as well as local utilities to share mapping and databases with each other and the school network. Now the system includes a tie to all local traffic signals for synchronization and monitoring as well as the local realtors MLS information and soon the local law library.

The project is a powerful example of how anxious the public is to utilize the NII when it is made available. It shows how important it is to get started now. It also demonstrates how important it will be to not only make the capabilities available but also to create standard "cook-book" solutions and educate home and business owners on how to utilize the technology.

Encourages and Motivates Use of the NII:
Over 350 other cities, 30 private companies, and scores of reporters and researchers have come to Glasgow to study our project. They come because it is real. It is delivering services which are cost effective to an ever increasing number of customers. It is founded in reality instead of conjecture. This project then encourages others to replicate it. In fact several cities are in the process of doing just that. When others see 34 people in a rural community of 14, 000 people are able to accomplish many of the services only mentioned as a dream by the prognosticators of the NII they rightly assume that they can do it too.

One of the big secrets to the success of our project has been our willingness to offer a total solution to our customers. We are convincing businesses that did not even own a PC to put in several PC's and a network and a file server. Why? Because we have been willing to design their networks, install them, recommend and install the software, provide connection to other networks, and support them on site as well as by telephone anytime they have a problem. This is not a new idea. It is called "customer service" and it is the only real obstacle that stands between the average consumer today and the consumer which is taking full advantage of the NII.

It is easy to see how the growth of the computer networking portion of our project will grow. Initially we support the installation of a stand-alone network in one of our customers businesses. We teach them how to use the network and especially how to use E-Mail within that business location. Next we connect them to the city-wide network and educate them in the use of E-mail between themselves and other businesses and individuals within Glasgow. We also teach them how to use the same network to access information on the school's file servers and the GIS file server. As the NII evolves and our network is tied to the Internet, our customers will use the same skills we have taught them about accessing information and using E-Mail locally to fully exploit the capabilities they will have to perform those communications with anyone in the world.

Thus, the innovation in our project rests not solely in the technology of providing high speed communications directly to the home, it also is innovative in its "democratization" of this technology. This project aims to make the information, presently utilized by a precious few in major metropolitan areas at a very high cost, available to all at a cost roughly equal to the cost of providing the service. In other words, it takes the "highway" metaphor seriously.

Advice:
Projects such as Glasgow's are much more deeply founded in politics than technology. A community must have a group of dedicated opinion leaders willing to communicate the vision of how everyone's lives can be enhanced through the creation of competition in former monopoly markets and the provision of information-age services today rather than tomorrow. This core group must be capable of communicating the relative simplicity of utilizing this technology if it is provided by local people willing to furnish complete solutions and ongoing support for those willing to take a chance on the information superhighway.

Barriers:
Even though projects like this one are most likely to be replicated in communities unlikely to be

slated for installation of broadband networks by the telephone companies or cable companies anytime this century, those companies will likely protest if a community elects to construct a project similar to Glasgow's. However, this is actually a healthy situation. It is very likely that just such competitive pressures will be necessary to spark interest by the private sector in beginning to actually construct such systems instead of continuing to posture about how these systems will be constructed sometime in the future.

Contact Information:
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Glasgow Electric Plant Board
Superintendent
P. O. Box 1809
Glasgow, Kentucky 42142
Email: wray@glasgow-ky.com
Phone: (502) 651-8341
FAX: (502) 651-7572

Primary Activity:
Utilities

Verification Method:
Our project would be best verified via a site visit. So far representatives of over 350 cities have already visited.

Click here to go back to the main National Information Infrastructure page.